



Laurie Halse Anderson

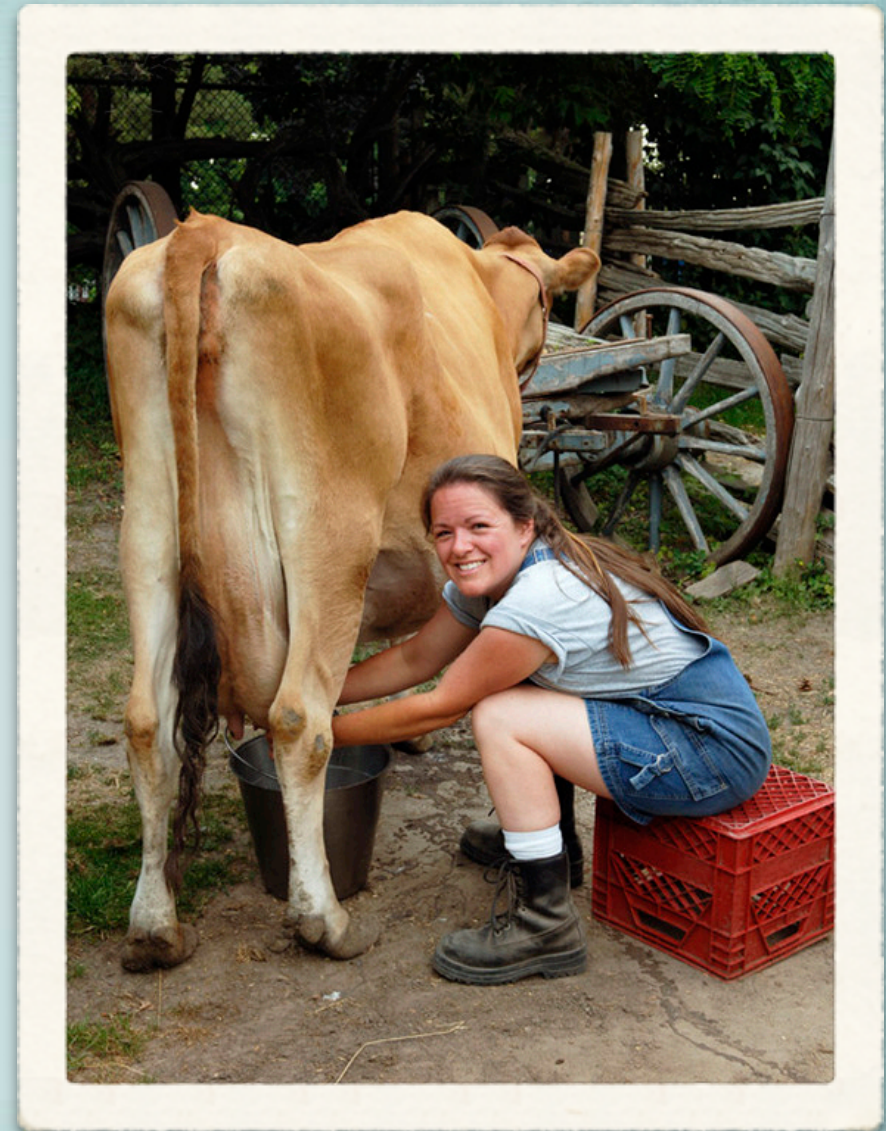
Author Study

by

Elaine Cardenas

Background

- Born 10/23/61 in New York
- Wanted to be a doctor
- Lived on a pig farm in Denmark for high school exchange program
- While in college worked on a dairy farm
- After college married Greg Anderson & had two daughters
- Has divorced and remarried Scot Larrabee
- Their blended family now includes Scot's children-son, Christian and daughter Jessica.

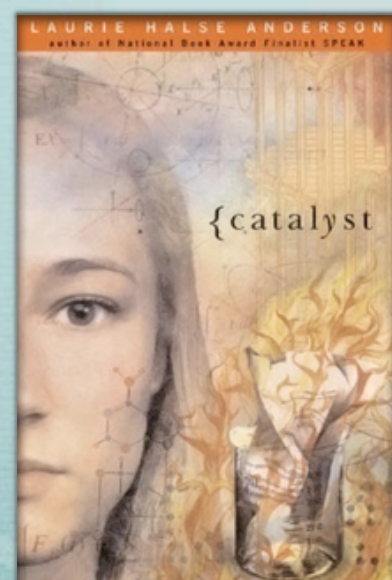
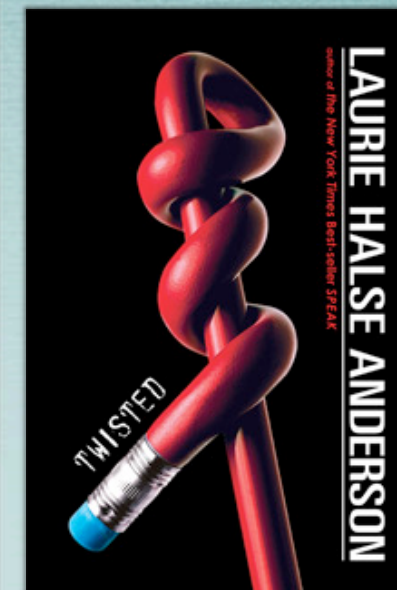
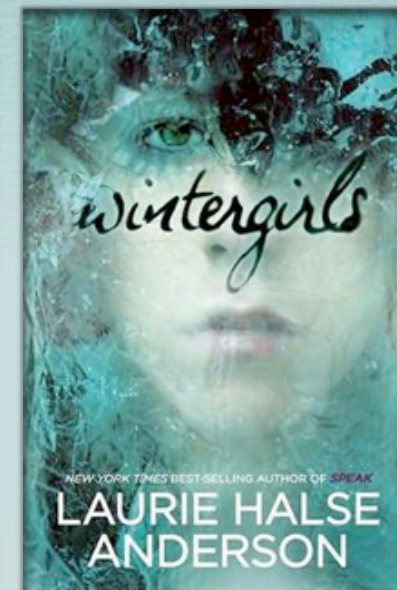
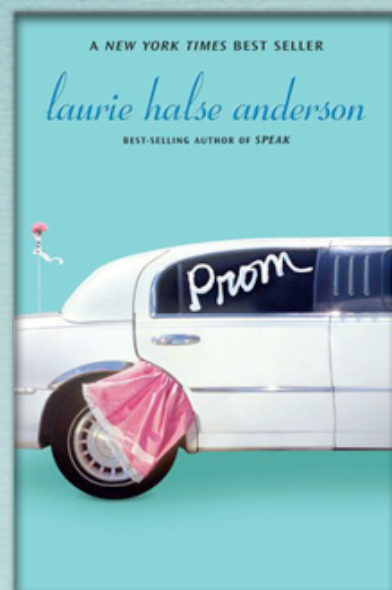


The Beginning

- Onondaga County Community College
- Georgetown University
- Degree from Georgetown- B.S.L.L. in Languages and linguistics
- Worked as a newspaper reporter & journalist
- Wrote as a hobby. Eventually realized she could make \$\$\$ writing and decided to try writing books
- Her first published book was *Ndito Runs* published in 1996
Ndito Runs is a picture book about a Kenyan girl

“Write about the emotions you fear the most.” LHA

Y A N O V E L S



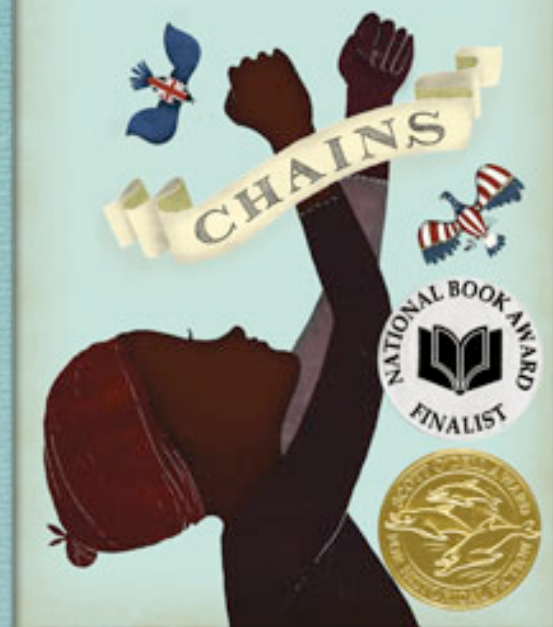
“*Laurie Halse Anderson masterfully gives voice to teen characters undergoing transformations in their lives through their honesty and perseverance while finding the courage to be true to themselves.*”

*David Mowery, Chair
2009 Margaret A. Edwards Committee*

HISTORICAL FICTION

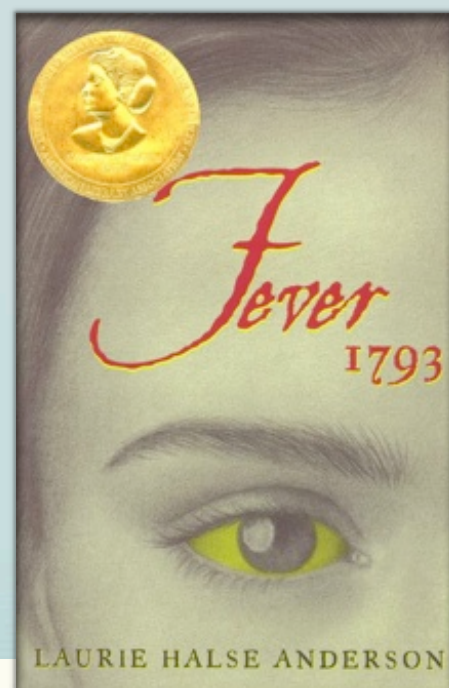
LAURIE HALSE
ANDERSON

Author of *Speak* and *Fever 1793*



Anderson's novel is remarkable for its strong sense of time and place and for its nuanced portrait of slavery and of New York City during the Revolutionary War.

—Hornbook



The plot rages like the epidemic itself.

—The New York Times Book Review



Click
arrow to
view video
of
LHA's
comments
about
Forge.

LAURIE HALSE
ANDERSON

The sequel to the National Book Award Finalist *CHAINS*



...for many readers it will be one of the best novels they have ever read.

—Kirkus

Awards



YALSA awarded Laurie Halse Anderson the **Margaret A. Edwards Award** in 2009 for significant and lasting contribution to young adult literature. The award was given for the books *Catalyst*; *Fever 1793*; and *Speak*.

In addition to the Margaret A. Edwards Award, Anderson has won numerous other awards such as: the Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction and many state awards.

My Impressions

LHA goes above and beyond to research her historical fiction novels. Hornbook wrote an article called "Tasting the Past" about the research she did for *Forge*. I can't get over the things she did in order write an authentic story. LHA lived in a cabin the woods while she wrote *Forge*.

In an effort to make her writing authentic, she: split wood, wrote by candlelight, cooked & ate firecakes, and tasted gunpowder. On a snowy February day, she dressed in the garb of a soldier, and walked in her stocking feet across the snow. For Anderson, that was a most powerful experience. Anderson says, "walking in the footsteps of people from the past adds vibrancy to their words. It's one thing to read about a fire, quite another to smell the smoke and hear the wood pop and sizzle."

*Her advice for young writers: "Turn off the television"

Works Cited

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